

From: Romeo Hebron [mailto:romeo@filipinomigrantcenter.org]

Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 8:13 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Diana Tang <Diana.Tang@longbeach.gov>; Council District 1 <District1@longbeach.gov>; Council District 2 <District2@longbeach.gov>; Rahul Sen <Rahul.Sen@longbeach.gov>; Council District 3 <District3@longbeach.gov>; Jack Cunningham <Jack.Cunningham@longbeach.gov>; Council District 4 <District4@longbeach.gov>; Council District 5 <District5@longbeach.gov>; Council District 6 <District6@longbeach.gov>; Chork Nim <Chork.Nim@longbeach.gov>; Council District 7 <District7@longbeach.gov>; Celina Luna <Celina.Luna@longbeach.gov>; Council District 8 <District8@longbeach.gov>; Lynette Johnson <Lynette.Johnson@longbeach.gov>; Council District 9 <District9@longbeach.gov>; Matthew Hamlett <Matthew.Hamlett@longbeach.gov>; Parker Houston <Parker.Houston@longbeach.gov>

Subject: FMC Support for Recall and Retention Ordinances

-EXTERNAL-

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the Filipino Migrant Center, please find the attached letter of support for the Recall and Retention Ordinances.

Sincerely,

Romeo Hebron

Executive Director

Filipino Migrant Center

2125 Santa Fe Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90810

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February 8, 2022

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the Filipino Migrant Center, we are writing to express our strong support for Long Beach's Right of Recall and Retention ordinances to become permanent policies in our city. We urge you to prioritize the needs of essential workers and ensure that they have these important protections in place for future economic crises. The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us that we are all interconnected, our lives and our livelihoods depend on getting through this public health crisis together with dignity for everyone.

In May of 2020, Long Beach led the nation in putting workers first when they voted unanimously to pass ordinances to protect workers' right to return to work after massive job loss during the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hospitality and janitorial workers are essential workers who are key to our ongoing recovery, but they have been the hardest hit during this pandemic. We fought for essential workers' right to return to work after being laid off. These policies have been critical to protecting the lives and livelihoods of Long Beach workers.

We are concerned that these protections are in danger of repeal, threatening the livelihoods of the essential workers that are still dealing with hardships during the recovery process. The COVID-19 pandemic is not over and we need to make sure everyone recovers, not just the privileged few who can work from the safety of their homes. Our city's leaders must do everything possible to prevent a deeper social and economic crisis with race and class defining who does well and who does not. As our elected officials, you are well positioned to take the necessary steps to address the needs this emergency has heightened.

As community members, our goal is for all of us to be safe and healthy, and we must center the people most impacted -- this is not a new approach. It's called equity. Racial and economic equity is the way forward and at this moment it's more crucial than ever. We urge the Long Beach City Council to make these protections permanent. Recovery means everyone!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Romeo Hebron, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Romeo Hebron, Jr.
Executive Director
Filipino Migrant Center
romeo@filipinomigrantcenter.org

We dream of a society where families are not torn apart by urgent need for survival. We dream and will actively work for a society where there is equal opportunity for everyone to live a decent and humane life.